

Message Text

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20

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 MC-02 /082 W

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R 151030Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3431

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY GABORONNE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0412

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI PFOR SF WA AO

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN SECURITY FORCES FIGHT OVAMBOS IN UNITA
UNIFORM IN NAMIBIA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. A SOUTH AFRICAN CONGEN OFFICER TOLD US THAT ABOUT APRIL 7
OR 8 A SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY PATROL WORKING OUT OF THE ANGOLAN-
NAMIBIAN BORDER POST ON THE MAIN ROAD FROM ANGOLA TO WINDHOEK
WAS AMBUSHED BY A UNITA FORCE OPERATING INSIDE NAMIBIA. THE
ATTACK WAS REPULSED WITH FOUR UNITA KILLED AND FIVE TAKEN
PRISONERS. THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER IS TO
ARRIVE IN LUANDA ON APRIL 14 TO LODGE A STIFF FORMAL PROTEST
WITH THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER.

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2. OUR SOURCE SAID THE SA PATROL, CONSISTING OF AN ARMORED CAR

WITH A 60MM MORTAR AND TWO LAND ROVERS WITH TROOPS WAS PART OF A REINFORCED PLATOON RECENTLY POSTED TO THE BORDER POST TO AUGMENT THE POLICE FORCE IN THE REGION. THE PATROL WAS "SHOWING THE FLAG" IN SOME OVAMBO VILLAGES IN NAMIBIA WHEN IT WAS AMBUSHED BY A FORCE OF 20-30 SOLDIERS IN UNITA UNIFORM. THE SOUTH AFRICANS RETURNED THE FIRE WITH THEIR SMALL MORTAR, LANDING A COUPLE OF ROUNDS IN THE MIDST OF THE UNITA TROOPS, KILLING FOUR AND WOUNDING FIVE WHO WERE CAPTURED - THE OTHERS FLED INTO THE BUSH.

3. THE UNITA SOLDIERS WERE, ACCORDING TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN, OBAMBOS RECRUITED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO WHO HAD JUST FINISHED BASIC TRAINING AND HAD RETURNED IN A LAND ROVER AND A LARGE TRUCK TO SHOW OFF THEIR NEW UNIFORMS AND WEAPONS TO THE FOLKS BACK HOME. THEY AMBUSHED THE SOUTH AFRICAN ONLY BECAUSE THE PATROL ENTERED THE AREA OF THEIR VILLAGE; THEIR ACTION WAS NOT PREMEDITATED.

4. THE SAG IS INCENSED OVER THE EVENT AND IS TAKING THE UNPRECEDENTED STEP OF SENDING ITS DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TO LUANDA ON APRIL 14 TO PRESENT A FORMAL PROTEST TO THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER. THEY ARE UNDER NO ILLUSION THAT GEN CARDOSO, THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, WILL BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING TO PREVENT REPETITIONS BUT THEY BELIEVE A RECORD MUST BE BUILT TO PAVE THE WAY FOR MORE VIGOROUS REACTIONS IN THE EVENT OF FUTURE INCIDENTS.

KILLORAN

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